

Biographical Information – Ira Watkins

I was born in Waco, Texas on February 12, 1941. I've been involved in art since I was 8 years old and have lived in the San Francisco Bay Area most of my adult life, but moved back to Waco in 2000.

A self-taught artist, I take pride in participating in exhibitions with well-known artists in top-flight venues as well as in grass-roots art shows. My work depicts and celebrates the community that I am a part of and shows the diversity of the African-American community, from everyday life experiences to political, sports and religious venues. Music and musicians are another theme running through my work.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2000 Jake's – Waco, Texas
- 1993 Ethnic Trip – San Francisco
- 1991 Cameron Woo – San Francisco
- 1990 San Francisco Cultural Center – San Francisco

Group Exhibitions

- 1996 Luggage Store – San Francisco
- 1996 Museum of Science & Industry – Chicago
- 1996 Nexus Gallery – Berkeley
- 1996 Unitarian Universalistic Church – San Mateo
- 1995 Luggage Store – San Francisco
- 1995 John Natsoulas Gallery – Davis
- 1994 Luggage Store – San Francisco
- 1994 Center for Visual Arts – Oakland
- 1994 International Café – San Francisco
- 1994 Pro Arts Gallery – Oakland
- 1994 Creative Spirit Gallery – San Francisco
- 1994 Ames Gallery – Berkeley
- 1993 John Natsoulas Gallery – San Francisco
- 1993 Los Angeles Art Fair – Los Angeles
- 1993 State of Art Gallery – San Francisco
- 1991 McKesson Plaza – San Francisco
- 1991 Graham & James – San Francisco
- 1991 Northern California Grantmakers – San Francisco
- 1991 John Natsoulas Gallery – San Francisco
- 1991 American Zephyr Gallery – San Francisco
- 1991 509 Market Street – San Francisco
- 1991 509 Cultural Center – San Francisco
- 1990 University of California – Davis
- 1990 San Francisco State University – San Francisco
- 1990 San Francisco Arts Commission – San Francisco
- 1990 San Francisco City Hall – San Francisco
- 1988 Contract Design Center – San Francisco

Awards

- 2004 City of Waco proclaimed January 17 as “**Ira Watkins Day**”
- 1996 Museum of Science & Industry – Chicago
- 1996 Black History Month Competition – San Francisco
- 1995 Art in Transit Bus Shelter Project – San Francisco Art Commission
- 1991 Tenderloin Times Art Contest – San Francisco

Interviews

2005 U Monthly – Waco, TX
2003 Waco Today – Waco, TX
2003 Tribune Herald – Waco, TX
1993 This Week in San Francisco, Channel 51 – San Francisco
1992 Bay Area Backroads – San Francisco
1992 Tenderloin Times – San Francisco
1992 Dallas Morning News – Dallas, TX
1991 San Francisco Chronicle – San Francisco
1991 San Francisco State Student Union Association – San Francisco

Private Collections

Edith G. Davis – China Spring, TX
Marion E. Greene – St. Helena
LEF Foundation – St. Helena
Dr. Charles Barnes – San Francisco
Marina Drummer – St. Helena
Albert Roodick – San Francisco
Merrill Magoowan – Midland, TX
Virginia Newhall - Napa